



City of Port Moody

Minutes

Economic Development Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Economic Development Committee held on Wednesday, July 8, 2020 via Zoom.

Present

Councillor Hunter Madsen, Chair
Mayor Robert Vagramov, Vice-Chair
Edward Chan
Sharleen Karamanian
Sean Ogilvie
Greg Pepler
Christopher Pope
Robert Simons

Absent

Taryn Barker (Regrets)
Lisa Beecroft (Regrets)
Dustin Chelen (Regrets)
Matt Ferguson (Regrets)
Brian Krieger (Regrets)
Mary Vellani

In Attendance

Joji Kumagai – Manager of Economic Development
Jennifer Mills – Committee Coordinator

Also in Attendance

Dr. Sarah Lubik, Director of Entrepreneurship, Simon Fraser University

1. Call to Order

Call to Order

- 1.1 The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

EDC20/015

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT COVID-19 Teleconference with Minister Robinson be added to the agenda as item 4.5.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes

- 2.1

3. Unfinished Business

4. New Business

Discussion with Dr. Sarah Lubik

4.1 Dr. Sarah Lubik, Director of Entrepreneurship, Simon Fraser University

Dr. Sarah Lubik gave a presentation on Impact Hub 101 for Port Moody and the following was noted:

- the creation of clusters may begin organically or through the conscious collaboration of a group partners deciding together to get the most out of what they have;
- a key to a successful collaboration is honesty about what the partnership does and does not have, such as culture, history, companies, talent, etc.;
- an ambitious and specific vision will help create an idea that anyone can buy into and will last through stakeholder changes;
- the creation of short-, medium-, and long-term goals must be undertaken to communicate ongoing accomplishments and ensure long-term success; and
- the transformation of a former industrial area into a lively urban mixed-use centre in Zurich-West could be used as reference for Port Moody.

Dr. Lubik advised that the 2020 R&D Management Symposium: Invention to Innovation, Creating the Conditions for Impact is scheduled for August 4-5, 2020 and encouraged Committee members to register for the event.

The Committee noted that Port Moody's natural resources and history of high-value manufacturing are unique assets.

Dr. Lubik left the meeting at this point and did not return.

COVID-19 Business Impact Survey Results

4.2 The Manager of Economic Development provided an overview of the COVID-19 Business Impact Survey Final Results and the Breakdown of Top Four Responding Sectors and noted the following:

- the results included the 24 new responses received since the last meeting, bringing the total number of respondents to 95;
- the pandemic has provided the opportunity connect with many home-based businesses and provide tailored support based on their unique needs;

- the top four responding sectors were restaurants, breweries, and cafés, fitness and wellness, professional services, and retail businesses;
- the results provide a snapshot of the varying impacts of COVID-19 on the different sectors of Port Moody businesses;
- the impacts of COVID-19 may continue for an extended time for the fitness and wellness, and restaurants, breweries, and cafés sectors;
- the results revealed that a reliable source of personal protective equipment (PPE) was an area of concern for businesses and the City could explore ways to assist businesses in obtaining reliable sources of PPE;
- the survey results indicated that respondents were reluctant to take on more debt and had minimally participated in the support programs; and
- the survey results indicated that most respondents have support networks in place to assist with mental health challenges and that more than 50% of respondents were interested in further mental health and well-being resources; the City Could explore ways to provide assistance with mental health resources.

Action: The Chair and the Manager of Economic Development to review the Survey results and identify actionable items to meet the business community needs for the Committee's review at a future meeting.

Agenda items were varied at this point to address item 4.5.

Shop Local Port Moody Updates

4.3 This item was not addressed.

Economic Development Work Plan

4.4 Attachment: Revised 2020 Economic Development Committee Work Plan
File: 01-0360-20-03-01

The Chair provided an overview of the Revised 2020 Economic Development Work Plan and noted the following revisions:

- addition of more detail on the White Paper;
- removal of the Business Check-in Event;
- addition of the COVID-19 Teleconference with Minister Robinson;
- addition of SFU Marine Centre presentation in October;
- addition of the Metro Vancouver Regional Prosperity Update in November; and
- addition of the 2020 R&D Management Symposium Debrief in September.

EDC20/017

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the Revised 2020 Economic Development Committee Work Plan be approved.

The Manager of Economic Development provided an overview of the City of Port Moody Economic Development Master Plan White Paper and noted the following:

- the White Paper will bring together the outputs from the Economic Development Committee Working Groups and form the framework for the Economic Development Master Plan; and
- the White Paper will provide Council with the essential information needed to make decisions related to economic development during the Official Community Plan amendments in the Fall.

Action: Committee members to review the City of Port Moody Economic Development Master Plan White Paper and send feedback to the Manager of Economic Development at jkumagai@portmoody.ca.

**COVID-19
Teleconference
with Minister
Robinson**

- 4.5 The Vice-Chair provided an overview of the COVID-19 Teleconference with Minister Robinson and advised that the Teleconference will include discussions related to the re-opening of businesses with Mayors from across the Province of BC. The Vice-Chair further advised that the Mayors will be allotted two minutes each to comment on the state of economic recovery in their respective communities and requested Committee members' feedback on a message for Minister Robinson.

The Committee members noted the following in response:

- the Canada Emergency Response Benefit program incentivizes employees to not return to the workforce and the money from this program could be better used at the Provincial or Municipal level to support infrastructure and programs which have suffered due to a lack of revenue; and
- the local businesses are concerned with patrons returning to previous consumer habits and not continuing to buy local after the pandemic; these businesses could benefit from assistance in strategies to retain customers.

EDC20/016

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the COVID-19 Business Impact Survey Final Results and Breakdown of Top Four Responding Sectors be forwarded to Council for information.

The agenda order resumed at this point.

5. Information

Staff Updates

- 5.1 The Manager of Economic Development advised that the Finance Minister provided an update on July 8, 2020 regarding the Federal budget and economic projections related to the effects of COVID-19, and how the debt will be managed moving forward.

6. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:58pm.



Councillor Hunter Madsen,
Chair



Jennifer Mills,
Committee Coordinator